

STRANGE DAZE

A Journal of Extraordinary experiences, some of which may be related to the number 222.



NUMBER 9

MAY 1996

Price: £1.00

THE CLEMENTINE CONSPIRACY:
Are they hiding something
about our Moon?

Jay Dillon on THE URANTIA BOOK
& EXTRATERRESTRIAL HUMANOIDS

Conference reviews:

Quest International in Newcastle ;
BUFORA in Sheffield.
Plus GENUINE CASES OF THE UNEXPLAINED
FROM THE NORTH OF ENGLAND

NUFORI

NORTHERN UFO RESEARCH & INVESTIGATION

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STRANGE

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Strange Daze is the publication of Northern UFO Research and Investigation.

NUFORI is a small group of UFO investigators, researchers and writers. Since UFOlogists invariably end up arguing and falling out big time, NUFORI does not hold regular meetings. I blame it on BSE.

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Subscription rates: £1 per issue, or £4 per year, in stamps, cash, POs, cheques, etc, made payable to "D.A. Newton".

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With special thanks to Mark Spain. Cartoons © Mark Spain 1996.

Strange Daze is printed on paper made from wood, a renewable natural resource. With the exception of page 23, made from a (now extinct) species of tropical hardwood. Feel the quality.

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EDITORIAL.

Welcome to issue 9 of Strange Daze. Regular readers will notice the new improved A4 size and layout of the magazine. I am happy to say that this is due mostly to the ever improving circulation of our magazine. It is no longer practicable for me to copy, guillotine, sort and staple all of the issues myself so I have had to hand that duty over to a proper printing company. I hope that the increase in print quality and page size will not require an increase in price for future issues. I hope also that the improvements in design and printing will be matched by an increase in the quality of the articles within Strange Daze.

I have learnt a lot over the last couple of years, not just about writing and producing a magazine but also about UFOs and UFOlogists. Having successfully reached 9 quarterly issues and having had favourable reviews so far, I would like to comment on some of the other UFOlogical magazines and newsletters available: It strikes me that a significant number of UFOlogists are incapable of using the English language in even a remotely competent manner. Some of the magazines and newsletters we receive make me cringe. In any publication, a few errors inevitably creep in, but reading through some of the material available makes me wonder about our educational system. Mistakes in basic English spelling and grammar do not reflect well on the groups concerned and one has to wonder if they really have anything constructive to offer in the study of a baffling and complex phenomenon.

In general, news stand magazines concentrate on image and glossy pictures to sell issues, and this holds true in UFOlogy. Articles can be shallow and sometimes badly written. In the majority of subjects, if you want to read in-depth articles at the cutting edge of the field then you have to subscribe to small circulation specialist journals. There is the occasional exception that proves the rule, such as *Nature*, which is available from some newsagents.

NEWS.....

Regional lectures in Newcastle. The BUFORA lecture in Newcastle planned for 18th May 1996 has been cancelled. This is because of Malcolm Robinson's departure from *UFOlogy* (see next news item). Also, the 27th July lecture with Jenny Randles is unconfirmed at the time of going to press. Please keep your eye on the local press for more information on this lecture.

However, we are pleased to announce that the University of Newcastle upon Tyne will be holding a one day conference entitled JOURNEYS AND ENCOUNTERS Nixon Hall, Ellison Place in Newcastle on Saturday

UFOlogy is no exception. *Magonia* and *The Ley Hunter* are two of the outstanding subscription magazines which often contain articles of importance to *UFOlogists*. I hope that *Strange Daze* will eventually reach a level equal to, or surpassing them, in quality. From the very beginning, I have tried to maintain three things as the editor and producer of this magazine:

1. The best value-for-money journal in *UFOlogy*. Quality does not have to be expensive;
2. Well researched new case investigations and articles, with the emphasis on solid evidence and first hand witness testimony rather than wild speculation; and
3. An open platform for new writers and investigators, with the emphasis on contributors from the North of England.

I also try to include something so often missing in *UFOlogy*: humour. To finish, I think we are doing pretty well here, and I would like to thank all of the regular contributors and subscribers for their continuing support. - D.N.



"Cancel the abduction! Engines full reverse! That's David Icke down there....and he's giving a lift to Shirley MacLaine!!"

22nd June 1996. It is expected to run from 10 am to 4 pm. There is a line up of excellent speakers:

Philip Mantle on Alien Contact;

Hilary Evans on Encounters with Otherworldly Beings;

Kevin McClure on Blessed Virgin Mary visions;

Michael Perry on Near Death Experiences; and

Iain Edgar on the Contemporary Dreamwork Movement.

Early booking is recommended. Tickets cost £8 and £6 (concessions), from Helen Price, Department of Religious Studies, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU. For more information, contact Helen on 0191 222 6525.

A ONE DAY CONFERENCE

Saturday 22nd June 1996
10 am to 4 pm

UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE



JOURNEYS AND ENOUNTERS

Exploring Human and Non-Human Contacts

Iain Edgar

Anthropologist, University of Durham;
Author *Dreamwork, Anthropology and
the Caring Professions*

on
The Contemporary
Dreamwork Movement

Michael Perry

Senior Chaplain to the Bishop of
Durham; UK Consulting Editor *The
Journal of Near Death Studies*; Editor
The Christian Parapsychologist

on
Near Death Experiences



Hilary Evans

Researcher and Author *Visions,
Apparitions, Alien Visitors and Gods,
Spirits, Cosmic Guardians*

on
Encounters with Other-
Worldly Beings

Kevin McClure

Researcher and Author *The Evidence
for Visions of The Virgin Mary*; Editor
*Promises and Disappointments, Alien
Scriptures and Common Ground*

on
The Blessed Virgin Mary
Visions

Philip Mantle

Director of Investigations, BUFORA; Co-Author *Without Consent*

on
Alien Contact

At: Nixon Hall, Ellison Place, Newcastle

Fee: £8 Concessions: £6

All Welcome - Early Booking Recommended

For more information and bookings contact:

Helen Price, Department of Religious Studies, the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU
(Tel: 0191-222-6525)

MALCOLM ROBINSON QUILTS UFOLOGY In a shock decision, Scottish UFOlogist and paranormal researcher Malcolm Robinson has decided to end all involvement with the subject. He has disbanded his group, SPI, and ceased production of the magazine ENIGMAS. Subscribers have had cheques returned to them. In an open letter, Robinson said that his decision was "...due to a number of things. The most important of which has been my total neglect of family matters...I have blindly put my paranormal and UFO research work 'before' my family and now wish to redress this fact" and he cites the recent Dunblane tragedy as forcing him to take this decision.

We would like to thank Malcolm for his 17 years of hard work and wish him all the best for the future. We hope that someone with a similar amount of drive and enthusiasm will emerge to fill the gap that now exists in Scottish paranormal research.

MICROWAVE POWERED FLYING SAUCERS An article in the 17th February issue of New Scientist revealed that researchers in the U.S. and Russia are working on revolutionary aircraft that use an "air spike" to travel at Mach 5 and beyond. By using a laser beam or a microwave beam to carve a path through the air in front of the craft, air resistance and frictional heating are greatly reduced. While an aircraft of almost any shape could be accelerated to Mach 5, saucer shaped craft could possibly be used to focus microwave beams from satellites in order to power themselves and produce the air spike. If the designs ever make it out of the wind tunnel, it would be a breakthrough in aviation. Mach 25 is the speed required to leave the Earth completely, and if the air spike can protect a craft travelling at this speed, it may usher in a new era of spaceflight.

NEW PLANETS Last issue we reported the discovery of a new planet orbiting the star 51 Pegasi. Since then, two new planets have been discovered. Geoff Marcy of San Francisco State University and Paul Butler of the University of California at Berkeley have discovered planets around the stars 70 Virginis and 47 Ursae Majoris. Both planets are larger than Jupiter in our own Solar System. The 8.1 Jupiter mass planet orbiting 70 Virginis should have a cloud-top temperature of 85°C, and may therefore have liquid water.

(Source: Astronomy, April 1996)

COMETS AND ASTEROIDS Many people observed a comet for the first time in April, as Comet Hyakutake made its appearance in the northern sky. The comet was easily visible to the naked eye, with a tail stretching 30° or more across the sky. The best views of the comet were to be had through binoculars. Astronomers are hoping that Comet Hale-Bopp will put on a similar show next Spring, when it is at its closest to Earth.

Meanwhile, an Italian-French team at the Univ-

ersity of Pisa have been calculating the long term movements of asteroids. The asteroid Eros will not come dangerously close to Earth within the next 100,000 years, but over a longer time period it might collide with us. One simulation produced collision just over one million years from now. Eros is thought to be twice the size of the body that wiped out the dinosaurs.

(Source: The Times, 25 April 1996)

SATELLITES The Chinese spy satellite that was supposed to come crashing to Earth eventually did so on the 12th March. It burned up harmlessly over the ocean, luckily nowhere near the United Kingdom.

The Soho solar satellite, launched in December, is now in position orbiting the Sun at the point where the gravity of the Sun and Earth cancel out. Initial results suggest that the Sun's internal workings may be chaotic. If the normally regular 11-year solar sunspot cycle shuts off, as it did 200 years ago, we may experience another mini- or full blown ice age. Data from the Solar heliospheric observatory (Soho) satellite may help scientists to predict these climatic changes. (Source: Sunday Times, 28 April)

FLYING TRIANGLE The Morecambe UFO group managed to capture a flying triangle on video camera, when they were called out at 7 pm on 2nd February this year. The flying triangle, described as being "as big as three Hercules aircraft", was seen hovering over the ancient barrow site of Torrisholme. The F.T. then moved off in the direction of the Heysham nuclear power station. We hope that copies of the video footage will become available to other groups and researchers in the near future. (Source: OVNI)

+++STOP PRESS+++ The Sunderland Echo (30/4/96) reports that there has been a wave of UFO sightings over Wearside. We will try to include details in the next issue of Strange Daze.

TEKTITES AND METEORITES FOR SALE Don Simpson of Sunderland Astronomical Society has a variety of tektites and meteorites up for sale. The tektites include Indochinites from Thailand, Australites from Australia, Columbian tektites and Maldovites from Bohemia. A small number of meteorite samples are up for sale too, including irons, stony-irons, Pallasites and meteorodes. Call Don Simpson for more details on 1091 567 0151.



THE FEUD COURT.

This issue, I'm going to have a wee dig at Paul Fuller, editor of The Crop Watcher and Jenny Randles' right hand man in last year's arguments with Philip Mantle and BUFORA over the Santilli film.

On the 31st August last year I wrote to Paul Fuller with a letter for inclusion in The Crop Watcher concerning the Roswell film and BUFORA. Paul wrote back to me on the 7th September with a four page letter labelled "Private and Confidential". He ended the letter with a post script, saying "This letter is not for publication, showing to anyone else or copying. Thanks!" A few days later I received a short follow up, also labelled "Private and Confidential".

To be absolutely clear, let's run through that again. Both letters were labelled "Private and Confidential". Fine by me. I wrote back to Paul Fuller with a follow up letter of my own, dated 16th Sept.

My initial letter appeared in the Summer 1995 issue of The Crop Watcher, to which Paul added,

"Readers who wish to see my reply to this letter - and David's reply to my reply - should send a SAE with a 29p stamp to the Editorial address".

Well, Paul, you have a very strange understanding of the phrase "Private and Confidential". If 29 pence is all it takes, I'll make sure that I never let you in on any sensitive information.

- D.N.



CASE REPORTS FROM THE NORTH OF ENGLAND

By Gloria Dixon.

Location: Crossfell, Cumbria.

Date: 1988 (exact date unknown).

These events were reported to BUFORA via a letter in November 1994. M.S. describes these strange incidents in the following text:

"One bright morning some years ago, we went up to the top of our nearby mountain, Crossfell (old name "Fiends Fell") looking for some lost sheep in the snowdrifts that abound in that area. We spread out, fanwise, to get better ground coverage, our dogs close to heel. I took the main centre track, the snow was roughly two feet thick and quite hard going and I had to cut my own tracks through it to the summit. My other shepherd pals did not come up to the top of the fell however, but retraced their steps across the flat plateau taking a different sheeprun down to the valley bottom.

"The dogs and I sat on the summit rocks to eat sandwiches and have a well earned rest when suddenly there was a violent swishing/rumbling sound and looking back over the summit ridge itself toward the Dunfell Radar Beacon was a peculiar "cloud" or disc which hovered for a second, then disappeared down the Eden Valley. After a while, our sandwiches eaten I decided to retrace my steps down off the summit and continue looking for sheep at a lower level. NOW, the second weird event occurred - not only were there my tracks and those of my two collies, but two more alongside them of a much larger size and deeper tread - no one could possibly have made them in the short time that I turned to witness the UFO - my way up was at all other times in my view from where I had been sitting. Also, one of my collies (a young one) strated to sniff at the strange tracks, her hair bristling on her back, then she bolted hell for leather down

into the valley yelping in fear. By this time I, too, had decided to beat a hasty retreat after her. However, on reaching the lower slopes and safety, I bravely looked around up the slopes I had just come down and actually saw five black-clad figures approximately eight feet tall judging by the rocks they were standing by. They stood motionless for about a minute then melted away.

"at a later date I again walked on the aforementioned lower fell slopes (in search of yet more sheep) when I saw what looked to be a four engined bomber, a Halifax or Lancaster, banking badly between Cross Fell and Dun Fell. Again, it was a very calm day and it made no sound. My first thought was "Oh no, it's going to crash", but the horrible crunch sound never came, nor was there any sign of the said aircraft either climbing out or gliding away down the valleys in the distance. THEN, two days later, three jet aircraft collided over our next village of Blencarn, two were flying south down the valley and the one that caused the disaster had actually taken the flight path between Cross Fell and Dun Fell, the very same as the spook aircraft I had seen. Needless to say, I have left that shepherding venue to my other shepherding pals unless we all kept together. I was a WAAF on one of our Yorkshire Bombing stations during the war and had many aircrew boyfriends, many of whom never made it to peacetime. Were "they" trying to warn me off shepherding that particular part of the fells until the actual disaster took place? Certainly, many aircraft did prang on these border fells during the war period."

A curious footnote here is that it appears that Cross Fell has witnessed at least four plane crashes, among them a Halifax bomber, which went down in 1943, killing all of its crew. The crash that M.S. referred to happened on the 9th August 1988, when two Tornado jets collided mid air above the village of Blencarn.



Four airmen died and according to the accident investigators the jet that caused Cumbria's worst air crash was following the same flight path as the mysterious Halifax bomber. According to M.S.'s letter, Cross Fell is a very haunted spot if one is alone. Despite its breathtaking scenery some hikers are only too happy to come off it at dusk. Furthermore, history books and local people say that someone from the church had placed a wooden cross on its summit to try to alleviate the strange events that seem to occur, hence its present name. However, the cross was soon swept away by the bad weather. When thunderstorms occur, the Cross Fell area attracts many of the thunderbolts.

Readers may remember in the last issue of Strange Daze I documented the case of a family camping near Alston in Cumbria last year, who witnessed some unusual light phenomena. This was in close proximity to Cross Fell.

Another interesting case has emerged from Cumbria and although these events occurred many years ago in 1965, I would like to record them here as the incident involves entities and is rather an unusual case. I am able to record this for Strange Daze with the kind permission of David Sankey of Quest International, who has investigated this case. I would like to extend my thanks to him on behalf of Strange Daze, and using David's casfile I will give a synopsis of the disturbing events experienced by the family involved.

Mr & Mrs C. and their baby son were driving overnight from Doncaster, South Yorkshire to Millom in Cumbria. Their journey started at approximately midnight. It was 1965 and although they cannot recall the exact date, they think it was possibly May, July or August and that it was a bank holiday. The exact route has not been established (This is looking a bit vague, isn't it? - Ed.) but they remember pulling in for a cigarette and a rest in the area between the A6 before Beetham and about three miles from the M6 Junction 35A. Shortly after pulling in, both witnesses suddenly noticed an intense red light which appeared dome or lens shaped. Within this light were three small creatures who seemed to give off a slight green luminescence. The entities were described as having large round staring eyes and a long nose that looked like a "small trunk" with a mouth that appeared as just a line or a slit. Their heads were large and almost turnip shaped, and their bodies were round with hands that were visible but digits that were not defined. Two of the three entities had their arms held out in front of them as if gesturing. No definitive muscle tone or bone structure was seen, and both witnesses stated that the entities did not appear to be wearing any clothing. No genitalia were noticed.

The object was estimated to be approximately 25 yards from both witnesses and part of its shape was obscured because of the position behind a dry stone wall. The entities appeared about 15 feet from the car in front of the dry stone wall when the object's brilliance was noticed.

Both witnesses drove off in a hurry after their strange encounter and did not talk about what they had just witnessed until they reached the lights of the next village, Milnthorpe, where they both agreed to draw, independently, the scene they had both observed. They arrived at their destination of Millom as dawn was breaking.

When David interviewed Mrs C. she stated that after the incident she somehow knew that the creatures felt nice to the touch and that her initial fear was not warranted. In fact, she said that she felt stupid for reacting in a frightened manner towards the creatures, because she somehow knew they were nice. Mr C. stated that he thought the creatures could be described as feeling like rubber to the touch! Their baby son who was in the car at the time experienced an unusual event at the age of 14 while playing with friends. They observed a small silver ball shaped object which glided towards them, floated away and then returned as if observing the children, and then suddenly shot off into the distance.

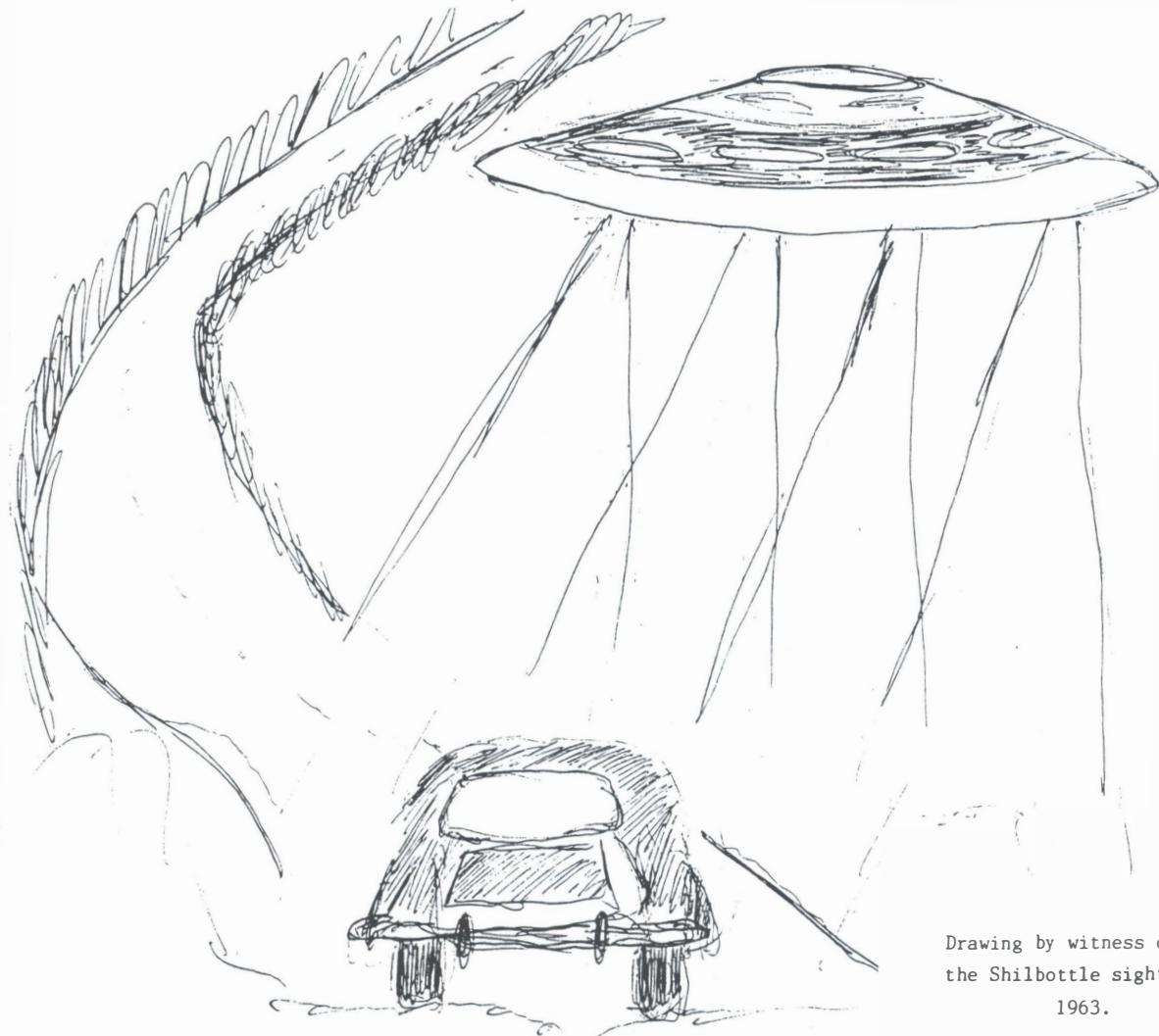
David learned of this case through a family acquaintance and emphasises that they wish no publicity whatsoever.

Location: Shilbottle, Northumberland.

Date: 1963, possibly July.

Joan A. and her father were travelling back from Leicester on the last few miles of their journey to Alnmouth along the Shilbottle road. It was approximately 3.30am, and driving into a dip in the road they noticed an unusual glow, as though there were a lot of lights above them. An interesting point here is that Joan and her father had not observed this object prior to driving into the dip; she explains, "it was a beautiful night and all of a sudden the lights and object were just there".

They stopped the car actually in the dip in the road and felt petrified as they realised there were some brilliant lights shining down upon their car. Joan feels that these lights were no more than about 100 feet above their car and describes the object as being massive, "like the size of a football field", with lights emanating from somewhere within the centre of it. She felt there were about ten lights and she likens them, to searchlights shining down on the car. Joan's father asked her to turn off the car engine and lights. They remained too frightened to even look up because of the extreme glare of the lights, feeling that it might be too brilliant for their eyes. Within thirty seconds the lights



Drawing by witness of
the Shilbottle sighting,
1963.



Cumbria sighting, 1965.

and object just went away, in that it shot away in the direction of the North Sea and was gone within seconds. Both witnesses noticed that the object had portholes and felt very strongly that they were being observed by this object. Joan emphasised that it was huge, the glow surrounded the car, and that she was able to observe the object from the side as it was so large. She estimated a speed of 1000 mph because it travelled so fast once it left.

They arrived at home just after 4am. From the site of the encounter to Alnmouth was a ten minute drive, so both Joan and her father possibly observed this object for longer than 30 seconds unless there was a time discrepancy as to when they first saw the object. Upon arrival at home Joan and her father could not stop talking about what they had observed and felt totally amazed for weeks after the event. Joan told me that she can still see the object like it was yesterday, over 30 years on.

Joan's thoughts at the time of the incident was that she and her father were going to be taken away by this object. They established in the days following their sighting that no one else had seen anything, even the people at the farmhouse near to where they had observed the object. They contacted RAF Bulmer, who said that they had no aircraft in the area.

I investigated this case at the beginning of 1994, and although Joan's father has since died, the villagers maintain that he was a real Northern man; totally down to earth, and if that is what he said he saw then that is exactly what he saw.

I have no doubt that Joan and her father saw something that night that appeared to defy rational explanation. It is of course unfortunate that this sighting was not investigated at the time of the event. Joan did tell me that they were approached by local television to go on and describe their sighting, but chose not to do this. She did not know how the television came to hear about this incident, but thought maybe it was something to do with RAF Bulmer. I have chosen to document this sighting report as it happened a year prior to the sighting and entities observed by the family driving to Millom in Cumbria.

I have several curious cases on file from the North East that span the years from wartime to the sixties. These involve observations of objects in the sky that were very strange indeed, particularly as these years were long before stealth technology was developed or being tested. There is also a puzzling case from the Gateshead area that allegedly happened with several children and involving claims of alien contact. Despite a great deal of research, I have been unable to confirm any record of these events, which were supposedly documented in the local

newspapers at the time. The primary witness (aged seven at the time) is adamant that there were several items in the local press. There is confirmation from his sister that something very traumatic happened to him; however, I feel that this may not have been of an alien nature and he may have become confused with other events. The gentleman concerned had an item in the local paper several years ago in order to jog memories and hopefully bring some of those children forward, who would now be in their sixties. If anything more substantial ever comes to light I will then document details of this case in Strange Daze.

An interesting UFO Report from Wallsend. - D.N.

Location: Junction of Sandown Gardens and Coniston Road, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear.

Date: 28th November 1994.

Mr F. was waiting at a bus stop at 9 pm on this clear and cold night when he observed some interesting activity in the sky due south. What started out as a single light in the sky eventually turned into two lights which performed aerial manoeuvres. What makes this report especially interesting is the way that Mr F. recorded his sighting and the fact that he returned to the site of his observation to determine positions, directions and angles of altitude. Mr F. eventually produced an excellent 8 page report on his sighting. It includes technical diagrams and even five watercolour pictures of the objects he saw, and he speculates as to what he saw. Such a detailed and accurate report is more than any UFOlogist could hope to get from a witness. Well done, Mr F! If only more witnesses were able to record their sightings in this way.

In his report, Mr F. says that "...there appeared in the sky a light which had not been there when I went to the bus-stop. I stood and looked at it and it was bright, straw coloured with a reddish tint to it." On the night in question, there were no bright planets visible or the Moon, so astronomical bodies can be ruled out.

"Whilst watching this light...I saw higher up and to the left of this light a black crescent being eased into the sky, I stared very hard to see what was putting it in the sky but could see nothing. This crescent shape started to fill out until it just became "gibbous" in shape and it was red as a very blood red sunset would be, and on this small "gibbous" disc were a number of black spots. At this point a small cloud appeared as from nowhere and covered it all up. I looked around the sky and there were no clouds except that one.

"This cloud became a bit thinner and the edges lightened up as if there was a light behind it, then the light started to swirl around and get lighter



Fig 1 Noticed light about 9pm.



Fig 2 Black crescent at 9-05pm.

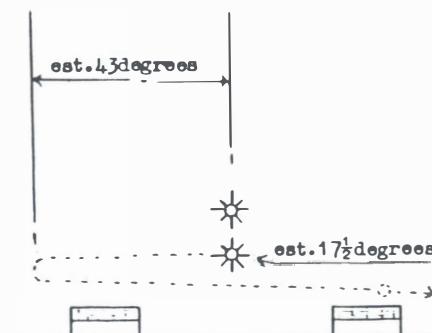


Fig 3 Configuration at about 9-07pm.

Fig 4 Lower light went 9-09pm.

View facing due south from 55°22'lat N 1°5'long.W

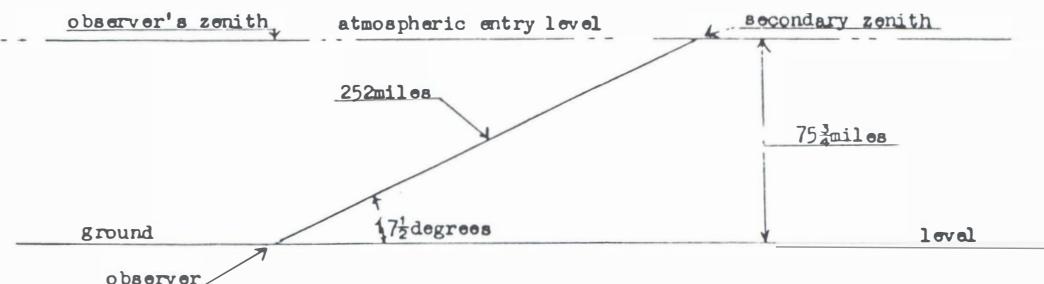


Fig.10. Atmospheric level is $75\frac{3}{4}$ miles above earth, distance from observer to secondary zenith would be 252 miles.

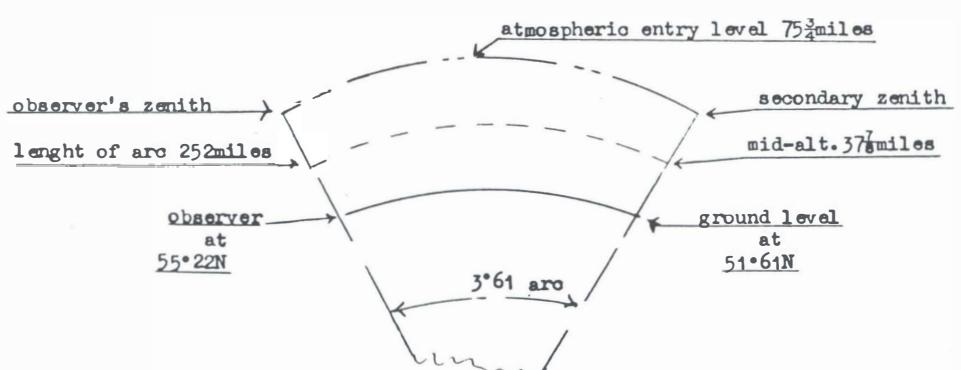


Fig.11. By putting the 252 miles hypotenuse to the mid altitude arc at $37\frac{7}{8}$ miles plus the earth radius ($3965\frac{1}{2}$ miles) it will give an estimate of the lowest altitude of the lower light.

until it was a very light mist and behind it was a small black disc, there was nothing to judge its size by but I reckon I could get five or six of them one on top of the other into the size of the Moon when full.

"The dark disc started to go to a dark grey through light grey then to white, then started to get whiter until it was luminent and the edge of the perfectly round disc became blurred and it just looked like the Moon does behind a very thin cloud, then all of a sudden became a straw coloured bright light just like the one below it. I am not sure whether the two lights were exactly above each other or not. When the black crescent first appeared it was 9.05 pm by my watch.

"The upper light moved down to just above the lower light (Fig 4)...it zig-zagged down part of the way, I would say that the side-ways movement was larger at the top of its trajectory than it was at the end of it, as though it was "locking in" on the bottom one." In later correspondence, Mr F. now thinks that the zig-zagging could be due to the object taking a spiral path downwards to the second object.

"The lower light moved away to the left and did a U-turn in a fair sized radius and continued to the right and slowly losing height...its path was not too far above the roof of the bungalow on the right. The lower light started moving at 9.09 pm by my watch. The bus for the club came along, and as the moving light would soon be out of sight I got on the bus leaving the other light shining away, looked at my watch and it was 9.13 pm."

Some of Mr F.'s diagrams are shown overleaf. He returned to the bus stop, noted his exact position and the directions of the objects he had seen in the sky. Using a small device that he had built, he estimated the apparent altitudes of the objects in the sky. Mr F. made the assumption that the lower light was just above the atmosphere, approximately 80 miles, and was then able to estimate some distances and speeds. Mr F. ends his report by speculating as to what it was he saw:

"A sphere was unloaded in space about 234 miles above the Earth although I saw it at [a distance of] 323

miles on account of the $42\frac{1}{2}$ degrees angle. It was under limited "donkey" power and was only visible because the lights inside the vehicle that was unloading it were shining on it. Although I couldn't see the vehicle I could see what it was unloading. The black crescent I saw was the part that the light didn't shine on but the part that it did shine on appeared red to me on account of the distance (323 miles) away from it. What appeared to me as black spots were intakes and/or exhausts. As it was half way out, the parent vehicle blew fuel to it. As the fuel was being sucked in that was why it was swirling. When most of the fuel was on board I could see the sphere again. Being loaded, the main power source was started up and this made it glow amongst the remainder of the fuel that was outside the craft.

"Its companion below it was coming into line with it as it was locked in to the earth's rotation, and as it had to take over its position just above its companion it locked on to it which caused it to zig-zag down to its position. When on station this meant that the lower one could go on his way which he did by going east with the earth's rotation then doing a U-turn and so entering the atmosphere and going west, where to or why I don't know.

"The moon's diameter is about 30 seconds of arc so a sixth of this would give about a diameter of 2,480 feet for a sphere at 323 miles."

Mr F.'s excellent analysis of his sighting rests upon one major assumption, which may or may not be justified, that the objects he saw were above the Earth's atmosphere to begin with. If they were at such a great altitude, I would have expected that other reports of similar objects would have come in from around the country. Unfortunately, we have no other reports from that night. I therefore have to conclude that it is more likely that these unidentified objects were actually much closer to the ground than Mr F. has speculated. This in no way makes his sighting any less mysterious, and we would welcome any similar reports from that night from around the country.



THE CLEMENTINE CONSPIRACY by Dave Newton.

The Clementine spacecraft to the Moon was one of the few missions to our nearest neighbour in space over the last twenty years. The 424 kg spaceprobe returned an unprecedented amount of information on the Moon, and 1.8 million images were released by the US Naval Research Laboratory onto the Internet; nevertheless, a myth is developing among the UFOlogical community that NASA and the U.S. government is concealing Clementine data from the public, possibly including evidence of alien structures.

The Clementine Spacecraft. In the last twenty years there has been little scientific interest in the Moon. Until recently, scientists were content to examine the samples and photographs brought back to Earth by the Apollo missions and other craft. The last lunar landing was made by the Soviet probe Luna 24, which returned with a soil sample from Mare Crisium in August 1976.¹ Since then, the only missions to the Moon have been the Japanese Hiten and the American Galileo spacecraft, which passed

the Moon as part of its flight to Jupiter.

Since then, new technology has become available, and scientific and political interest in the Moon has started to increase. Due to budget limitations, NASA is not able to send new manned missions to the Moon; the final three Apollo missions were cancelled in the early 1970s due to the cost and waning public interest, and the attitude to manned missions has not changed appreciably since then. NASA is currently exploring ways of sending low cost spacecraft on high-information return Solar System missions, and Clementine was one of these missions.

Clementine was not just for the benefit of the Lunar scientists. The U.S. Government's Ballistic Missile Defence Organisation (BMDO) has been seeking ways to test out "Star Wars" technology, but these military space defence experiments using missiles are banned by the SALT 2 arms limitation treaty. In early 1992, the U.S. Department of Defence and NASA agreed to collaborate on a mission to a near-Earth asteroid, which would fly via the Moon. Both parties were happy; NASA got a cheap lunar and asteroid mapping mission, and the BMDO got to test out Star Wars hardware (mostly targeting and guidance sensors) in genuine outer space conditions.

Clementine 1 (named after the miner's daughter in an old ballad) was launched at 11.34 am EST on the 25 January 1994 from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. The launch vehicle was a Titan IIG, a refurbished Titan II ballistic missile built by Martin Marietta in Denver, USA.² Work on the spacecraft was started in March 1992, a mere 22 months before the launch date and roughly half the usual time required. Also, the cost of the spacecraft and launcher was \$75 million, one fifth of the usual cost.³ The spacecraft was built by the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington D.C. and the NRL were responsible for the operation of the mission, as well as ensuring that the science data from the mission was made available to NASA for distribution. The sensors and related interface components carried onboard were designed and built by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. NASA was responsible for the scientific return from the mission, and provided navigation and communication support through its Deep Space Network, the Goddard Space Flight Centre and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California.⁴

Clementine was a military operation; the Mission Manager was Lt. Col. P. Rustan of the BMDO, and the deputy Manager was Dr. S. Nozette, also of the BMDO.⁵ Any science return from the mission was secondary to the testing of the Star Wars technology; NASA was simply hitching a ride. Nevertheless, Clementine carried an impressive array of instruments: Two star trackers, a near infrared camera, a long wavelength infrared camera, an ultraviolet/ visible camera,

a high resolution imager, a LIDAR ranger, a charged particle telescope and radiation monitoring devices. The 1.6 gigabyte capacity data recorder was the largest ever flown. Ideal for mapping the Moon and the second target, the asteroid 1620 Geographos.

Clementine reached the Moon and was placed in an initial 8 hour orbit at 7.51 am EST, 19th February 1994. After firing its thrusters, it successfully entered the final lunar mapping orbit at 7.15 am EST on Monday 21st February.³ The spacecraft remained in this 400 km by 2940 km orbit until 3rd May 1994.⁶ The long awaited fly-by of 1620 Geographos had to be aborted due to an on-board malfunction. The computer (containing a 1750A radiation hardened processor) activated several thrusters during a 20 minute telemetry break, which depleted all of the fuel in the Attitude Control System tank.⁷ The problem was eventually traced to a software fault.⁶

The Lunar Data. Clementine 1 mapped the 38 million square kilometers of Lunar surface at eleven different wavelengths of the visible and infrared. The average surface resolution was 200 meters per pixel, but this varies because of the elliptical orbit. Together with 620,000 high resolution images and 320,000 mid-infrared images, the total data set returned to Earth contained roughly 1.8 million images.⁶ For the first time, this allows us to map the entire surface of the Moon. The Apollo missions mapped certain regions of the Moon in great detail of course, but polar regions had been virtually ignored. An initial analysis of Clementine data revealed an impact basin 300 kilometers in diameter near the South Pole that was previously unknown. By mapping the Moon at so many wavelengths, geologists can analyse the minerals in the lunar surface and determine how long they have been exposed to the vacuum of space and the harsh solar radiation. Clementine data can also be used to help determine the internal structure of the Moon, the structure and evolution of lunar surface features and even if water exists in the polar regions (inconclusive at present). For the dollars spent, Clementine must rate as one of the most successful space missions.

In October 1994 the Naval Research Laboratory released the entire collection of digital images onto the Internet, through their World Wide Web page, <http://www.nrl.navy.mil>.⁸ I have personally looked through some of the Clementine images, on a friend's P.C. Articles and research using Clementine lunar images and data have since appeared in many science and astronomy publications, including *Astronomy*,⁹ *Astronomy Now*,¹¹ and *Science*.¹² Considering that *Astronomy* was able to use Clementine images in an article in the July 1994 issue¹⁰ and that each issue usually takes two months to prepare, the images must have been made available in May 1994. At least, some

Clementine images must have been released by mid-May at the latest, in order to make it into print.

Conspiracy? Despite the availability of all the Clementine images by late 1994, certain parts of the UFOlogical community believe that there is a cover-up in operation. There are elements of the UFO community who are happy to believe that NASA and/or the U.S. Government are concealing evidence of alien structures on the Moon and planets, and that is indeed possible; but is it likely? We can only examine the available evidence and make up our minds individually.

The Clementine conspiracy theory maintains at present that the Pentagon has refused to release all (or at least some) of the Clementine images. Given that Clementine images are freely available, this particular version of the conspiracy is obviously flawed and it is hard to see how it can continue to do the rounds for too much longer. I am sure that the belief that no Clementine images are available is being spread by ignorance rather than any genuine desire to deceive. Hopefully by bringing the astronomical research and data to the attention of the UFOlogical community, we can correct the situation. Needless to say, the conspiracy theory will live on in some quarters, maintaining that some images have been "doctored", or have been classified and will never be released (unless leaked) because of the alien structures or UFOs "caught on the film". It is virtually if not completely impossible to refute this accusation; one can simply ask: it may be possible, but is it likely?

Accusations of concealment or image manipulation can be levelled at any set of lunar or planetary images, because they all pass through an official government-funded body such as NASA before they reach the public. The Clementine mission is perfect for such a conspiracy theory, because it was run not by NASA (boo) but by the Department of Defence's Ballistic Missile Defence Organisation (boo, hiss). NASA has been under attack for allegedly concealing evidence of alien life over the last few years, most notably by Richard Hoagland. Also, a former NASA photographic technician named Donna Tietze revealed on radio last year that NASA had a policy to airbrush out all UFOs before releasing images to the public¹³. At least NASA has not been accused (as far as I am aware) of building aircraft with alien technology or of collaborating with extraterrestrials in fiendish plots, of which the US military is regularly accused by some of the UFOlogical community. (It may be more accurate to say that NASA is accused of such things less often!)

The conspiracy rumour in print. The first time I came across the accusation in print was in OVNI¹⁴.

This was a reprint of an article which had previously appeared in PEGASUS¹⁵, which dealt with the Moon. The Editor's comment at the end read "The only known space mission to the moon in the past 20 years was the recent...CLEMENTINE unmanned probe, which photographed the entire moon surface. No photos released." Clearly they were misinformed, and I am pleased to say that an amendment will appear in the next issue of PEGASUS.

Most recently, the Clementine conspiracy has appeared in Quest International's UFO Magazine. In an article dealing with the Moon and Richard Hoagland, journalist Tim Coleman writes "The whole aura of secrecy surrounding the Clementine mission, the fact that the Pentagon were going to release all of the millions of images it took, to the public, and have so far reneged on that promise, and the suspicious nature of its demise;....all indicate clearly that NASA, and the US Government are extremely keen to keep this information secret."¹⁶ In the latest edition of UFO Magazine, Editor Graham Birdsall writes in response to a letter, "The fact remains, that the Clementine probe took millions of images of our Moon, and not a single photograph has been released for public or scientific consumption. That in itself raises serious and fundamental questions. Over to you NASA..."¹⁷

I wrote to Graham Birdsall, enclosing some copies of Clementine articles and the NRL's Internet address. In response, I received a somewhat confusing and ambiguous letter, in which he said "The Clementine probe has sent back fantastic images, duly processed and released to the public by NASA. My understanding is that for at least 6 months, the DoD had exclusive use of Clementine and their images have not been released to the public or scientific domain (the "Shard" was among many that never appeared in astronomical journals for example).

"People within NASA and other agencies covertly released many DoD images to Hoagland and other researchers..."¹⁸

First of all, the images were initially processed and released to the public by the Naval Research Laboratory. Secondly, if NASA covertly released images to Richard Hoagland, presumably someone at BMDO or the NRL must have covertly supplied NASA with those images to begin with, a serious security breach? The BMDO did have exclusive use of Clementine and its data, and there was a delay in the images being received, processed and then released. I would suggest that the delay was more likely to have been related to the "Star Wars" tests (the reason for the mission) rather than any attempt to conceal or sanitize the lunar images. Of course, it could be countered that the weapons system tests were just a cover story, and that the real purpose of the mission was to enable

the military to map and chart the moon and the alien structures (that may or may not exist).



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
Washington, D.C. 20301

We are sending you the enclosed material in response to your request.

Rather than being highly secretive about Clementine, I found the Pentagon to be most obliging. In response to my request for information, I was sent a package containing 70 pages of copied documents directly concerned with Clementine and its equipment, and a roughly equal amount of information on the Ballistic Missile Defence Organisation.

Objections to the conspiracy theory. If NASA or BMDO wanted to be secretive about the Clementine mission, they could have made a far, far better job of it than this.

The Ballistic Missile Defence Organisation could quite legitimately have refused NASA permission to tag along, thus keeping all of the lunar data secret. There are plenty of classified military rocket launches. They could have made Clementine one of those, and we would never have known that they had gone back to the Moon.

Alternatively, they could have pretended that some kind of malfunction occurred on the way to the Moon, told everyone that the spacecraft was "dead", and kept all of the lovely lunar photos to themselves. Instead, Clementine suffered a genuine software problem on the way out of lunar orbit.

If you really want to get a conspiracy out of Clementine, try this one for size: What are they trying to hide from us about asteroid 1620 Geographos? It has been suggested that the Asteroid belt would be the ideal place for extraterrestrials to set up a base¹⁹. Could Geographos be carrying evidence of alien bases or mining operations? Or something more sinister? Possibly. But is it likely?

Readers may recall the ill fated Mars Observer spacecraft which malfunctioned shortly before it was to start mapping the Martian surface in detail. This provided much food for thought in conspiracy hungry minds a couple of years back. It does make me wonder, sometimes. As they say, Once is an accident; Twice is a coincidence; but three times is a conspiracy.

Aliens on our Moon? Richard Hoagland is not the first person to suggest that there is an alien presence on or in our Moon. Strange lights and effects on the lunar surface (known as Transient Lunar Phenomena, or TLP) have been seen and documented by astronomers. Books have been written, suggesting that the Moon may be a giant hollow alien spaceship^{20,21}; or that there are structures and vehicles on the Moon, altering the landscape²².

Richard Hoagland's evidence concentrates on the Sinus Medii region of the Moon, in particular the craters Triesnecker and Ukert. In this region of the Moon Hoagland claims are various glassy, artificial structures, including "The Shard" (rising to 1½ miles above the surface) and "The Tower" (rising to 6 or 7 miles), which show up on a small number of NASA photographs. The crater Ukert, which is at the point nearest to Earth, seems to contain an equilateral triangle shape, under the right lighting conditions. Significant? As a regular lunar observer, I don't think so. Shapes change dramatically on the Moon from night to night, because of the changing angle of the sun and shadow. With no atmosphere, shadows on the Moon are sharp, and extend for many miles across the landscape. And that brings up my main objection to Hoagland's structures, particularly The Tower. Even if made of glass, a huge, tall structure such as The Tower would act like a giant Sundial, casting a long thin shadow over the lunar surface. Surely a shadow of that size would have been detected from Earth, even in moderate amateur telescopes.

The surface of the Moon is an inhospitable place. There are huge temperature differences between day and night. With no atmosphere, solar radiation sterilises the surface and meteorites pound away relentlessly at the regolith. Any alien race would quickly appreciate that the safest place to be on the Moon is underground ~ almost certainly, that is where evidence of alien habitation would be located. There may be some surface structures too, but I do not find Hoagland's evidence convincing at this stage.

Conclusion.

Clearly, the claim that no Clementine images have been released is nonsense; the sooner this particular rumour disappears from the pages of UFO journals, the better. Such inaccuracies do not help the credibility of UFO groups as a whole.

Claims that the Naval Research Laboratory or NASA are withholding data will be harder to disprove. There do not appear to be any obvious gaps in the data set; presumably then, any offending alien structures or UFOs have been electronically airbrushed out. The author calculates that, given the time the NRL had with the data, a team of at least 100 skilled

computer artists would be required to work 8 hour shifts, 7 days a week, to check and "clean up" images. This would not be impossible. This author would regard it as very unlikely though, considering that the BMDO were at liberty to classify the mission and not release any scientific data at all. On the contrary, the BMDO chose to collaborate with NASA, and the NRL took the unprecedented step of releasing the entire data set electronically on the Internet.

The author finds it interesting that so little has been made among the UFO community of the probe's malfunction, similar to the malfunction of the Mars Observer. The failure of the probe to observe Geographos may become part of a future conspiracy theory, shifting the emphasis away from the lunar information that the probe did return.

The Moon, our nearest neighbour in space, is astronomically within easy reach. It is sufficiently interesting, scientifically, economically and politically, to warrant future (hopefully manned) space missions. Although the evidence of alien involvement with the Moon is scant and inconclusive at present, future lunar landings may one day provide the proof of extraterrestrial life that so many scientists and UFOlogists are seeking.

Useful addresses:

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defence (Public Affairs),
Directorate for Public Communication,
Room 2E777,
1400 Defence Pentagon,
Washington, D.C. 20301-1400.

Solar System Exploration Division,
NASA Headquarters,
300 E Street, S.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20546.

30th Space Wing Public Affairs Division,
Vandenberg Air Force Base,
California 93437-6279.

Lt. Col. P. Rustan (mission manager),
Ballistic Missile Defence Organisation,
Washington, D.C. 22314.

Dr E.M. Shoemaker (Principal mission scientist),
U.S. Geological Survey,
Flagstaff,
Arizona 86001.

Dr D. Horan (Project Scientist),
Naval Research Laboratory,
Washington, D.C. 20375.

Dr L. Pleasance (Sensor programme manager),
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory,
Livermore,
California 94550.

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory,
4800 Oak Grove Drive,
Pasadena,
California 91109-8099.

NASA Regional Planetary Facility,
University of London Observatory,
33-35 Daws Lane,
Mill Hill,
London NW7 4SD.

Richard Hoagland,
The Mars Mission,
122 Dod Street,
Weehawken,
NJ 07087.

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20. Wilson, D.: "Our Mysterious Spaceship Moon", Sphere, 1976;
21. Wilson, D.: "Secrets of our Spaceship Moon", Sphere, 1980;
22. Leonard, G.H.: "Someone else is on our Moon", Sphere, 1978.

Items sourced to the Pentagon refer to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defence, 1400 Defence Pentagon, Washington D.C. 20301-1400.

The Urantia Book and Extraterrestrial Humanoids by Jay Dillon.

Editor/publisher Dave Newton asked me to comment on The Urantia Book and its statements regarding intelligent extraterrestrial life. I am not an authorised representative of the publisher of The Urantia Book; all of these statements and conjectures are based upon what The Urantia Book says and on recent books on Solar System exploration. Please try to find this book in your local library or bookstore. If it is not available there, telephone the Urantia Foundation at 312-525-3319 (fax 312-525-7739) in the United States to find a local distributor; or write to The Urantia Foundation, 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago IL 60614, USA.

The Urantia Book is a massive volume of over 2000 pages in four roughly equal sections discussing the central and superuniverses; the local universe; the history of Urantia (the Earth); and the life and teachings of Jesus. For those who are allergic to religion, please bear with me. I was raised as an atheist and I totally understand where you are coming from. The purpose of writing this is to take what The Urantia Book states and use it as a working hypothesis to explore the possibilities of extraterrestrial humanoid intelligence. This area of study is so wide open that the problem is to establish some kind of framework and get a foothold to even begin to look at the field. Using the book in this manner, I believe, is an excellent way to begin this process. What I believe or what you believe as a reader is of no consequence when we accept the idea that the concepts of this book will be used as a working hypothesis. I believe this book, but please examine it yourself.

The second section contains a paper entitled "The Inhabited Worlds." This paper asserts that Urantia (the Earth) is one of millions upon millions of planets in the universe that are inhabited by intelligent beings of many varieties.

Urantia is number 606 in an unfinished system containing 619 inhabited worlds. (Each system usually contains about 1000 inhabited worlds. In this paper

the word "system" denotes this group of 619 inhabited planets, and when the Solar System is being discussed, it will be written as such.)

The Urantia Book states that humanoids are varied in their adaptations to temperature, atmosphere, gravity, land/sea/air environments, electric/magnetic/electronic fields, energy intake methods, and other aspects of their physical environments. These adaptations result in anatomical, physiological and electrochemical variations. Living beings can tolerate temperatures much higher and much lower than Earth humans can; if humanoid creatures lived on Venus, Mars or the Moon they would be called superbreathers, subbreathers or nonbreathers, respectively; humanoids may be based on land, in the air, land/air, and water; due to gravity differences humanoids may range from two and a half to about ten feet tall; humanoids having varying capacities to adapt to electric, magnetic, and electronic fluctuations; some beings receive energy directly from light and from other (spiritual) power controllers when the material conditions of an inhabited planet make it impossible for beings to get energy by eating or by other material methods.

If we take the above seriously, we must accept the idea that our current thinking could be wrong, in regarding the other planets and moons of the Solar System as being (most likely) uninhabited. As hard as it is to imagine, let us hypothesise that there may be another civilisation of humanoids within the Solar System. I think it is fair to say that most astronomers and exobiologists have virtually given up on this possibility. Before encountering The Urantia Book I had given up the idea completely. However, it may be too soon to start looking at other star systems light years away! We could be overlooking something significant within our own Solar System if The Urantia Book is to be believed. As crazy as this may sound, it is the assumption of this article.

Urantia humans are termed midbreathers, meaning that they are adapted to an atmosphere of moderate density. This particular adaptive category is said to be the most significant of all, causing the greatest variations in the physical characteristics of the beings on the various planets.

Nonbreathers inhabit a sphere "in close proximity" to Urantia (the Earth). For some time now I have been trying to figure out which of the non-atmospheric planets or moons within the Solar System might be inhabited by such beings - although I am not sure that the phrase "in close proximity" indicates some planet or moon within the Solar System, since the few light years to neighbouring star systems may not be as overwhelming a distance to the authors of The Urantia Book as it is to you and me. If any

readers would like to make suggestions as to which planet or moon they think is a likely candidate, please write to me. In terms of sheer numbers of possibilities, Jupiter's moons should probably be monitored very carefully. One of the biggest barriers to such a search is our own disbelief. It is just very difficult to consider the idea seriously, especially since these planets and moons have been studied quite intensively for years.

Nonbreather civilisations are very rare in our system of 619 planets because meteors are still very common. With no protective atmosphere, the progenitors of the humanoid nonbreathers may not survive the bombardment if incoming meteors long enough to allow the evolution of the humanoids themselves. (As I understand it, these beings develop over long periods of guided evolution just as we have done.)

A race of nonbreathers, if it could develop at all, might have an advantage over air-breathing races in terms of the evolutionary eons available to them, because early evolutionary stages would not require the production of a suitable atmosphere. Nonbreathers have to use electrical methods to destroy or deflect incoming meteors. Terrible natural energy storms are another threat, and the nonbreathers have to protect themselves with insulating structures. They do not eat food or drink water. Their nervous system, heat regulation and metabolism are radically different from those of Urantia humans. The animal species on nonbreathing worlds are also much different from anything we know on Earth.

Based on the above statements and "hints" from The Urantia Book, let us assume a line of hypothesis which takes all these factors into account. First, assume that there is actually a planet or moon within the Solar System which is inhabited by nonbreathers. It could be any planet or moon that is totally devoid of an atmosphere. There are 60 moons, virtually all of them airless or nearly so. We might want to consider planets or moons that have some trace gases also, because these may be inhabited by nonbreathers.

The Urantia Book uses the word "sphere" to indicate the body inhabited by nonbreathers. Our own moon is an airless sphere and is in the closest proximity. So the Moon should be considered, but with all the scrutiny it has received over the years it seems unlikely that it is inhabited, to say the least. The Urantia Book indeed mentions our Moon as being an example of the type of sphere that could be inhabited by nonbreathers. However, the book also states that nonbreather worlds are "subject to disasterous electrical storms of a nature unknown on Urantia." This might indicate that the Moon is not the sphere to consider, and that we should give more attention to moons or planets that are wracked by electromagnetic fields.

Io is a moon of Jupiter. Its surface is one

of the most alien and violent places in the Solar System, with constant eruptions of liquid sulphur. Escaped sulphur particles form a belt around Jupiter called the sulphur torus, and in passing through this energised belt Io sets off massive electrical discharges far more powerful than any lightning seen on Earth. It seems ludicrous to imagine that life could somehow develop there, and certainly beyond human comprehension to imagine a race of nonbreathing alien humanoids evolving there. But this indeed is what we are led to - at least as a possibility - if The Urantia Book is telling us the truth. Assuming Io's sulphurous and electrically freakish environment could be the basis for life - and that is a rather huge assumption - there "could" be a spacefaring civilisation based on it. Our unmanned spacecraft have not indicated anything of the sort. Io gained notoriety in 1979 when an erupting volcano was observed via the Voyager spacecraft as it passed within 30,000 km. Io is resurfaced with new sulphur at the rate of about 10 mm per year via these volcanic eruptions.

Ganymede and Callisto, both moons of Jupiter, are thought to be primarily water planets with thick ice crusts due to their extremely low surface temperatures. If water is required to begin the process of evolution, starting with single celled organisms as occurred on Earth, then it seems conceivable that a moon such as Ganymede or Callisto could have evolved upward through various amphibious animals over the eons. The resulting intelligent races would reproduce as we do, being similarly evolved from a frog type creature. (The nurse who described seeing aliens in 1947 at Roswell, New Mexico, noted that they had suction cups on the tips of their fingers.) Over millenia of evolution the creatures might learn to tunnel upward through the thick ice. These tunnels would become extensively interconnected and form a vast planetary ecosystem.

As these creatures continue to grow and evolve they work their way upward through the ice and begin evolving a sense of sight utilising light in the upper levels of the ice crust. Continual asteroid bombardment opens the ecosystem to the outer environment of fierce cold and vacuum, so over the evolutionary epochs these creatures develop with eyes adapted to low-light conditions. (Even if adapted to surface colonies, they would have larger eyes than we do because of their much greater distance from the Sun.) Their skin would be relatively unpigmented (even albino) due to the typical low light conditions. These beings would of necessity be able to take refuge in the deep, warmer environment of safe, dark ice closer to the liquid water, but as population pressures increase they would be driven upward to the lighter areas and become increasingly

exposed and accustomed to a colder, lighted environment. Gradually their habitations become established at higher and higher areas in the ice and they invent technology to protect themselves from both the extreme outer cold and asteroid impacts. (Meanwhile asteroid impacts have been decreasing naturally and the civilisation flourishes.) The environment analogous to our "land surface" on Earth for them is a dark ecosystem of tunnels extending from the deepest ice 75 to 100 km below the outer surface all the way up to the airless tunnel openings on the surface.

To this race of beings, the outer surface would not be completely separate from their understanding, as it would have been necessarily accessible to them throughout their long evolution. (This is due to the fact that meteor bombardment, unshielded by any atmosphere, would never have allowed life to evolve without the ability to withstand the outer cold and vacuum.) Having never had a stable atmosphere, these beings would never have developed a breathing capacity.

Using the expanded criteria for planetary life as described in The Urantia Book, many if not most of the planets and moons we know of become candidates for habitation, and the fleeting explorations we have made to date must be considered inadequate to establish whether or not such places are lifeless.

It is interesting to note here that if intelligent creatures could evolve on Ganymede or Callisto and travelled to the Earth, they would probably feel most at home in our oceans, in our polar caps, and in caves; all places which are mostly undesired by humans. Thus it could be a perfectly reasonable idea for such races to also colonise the Earth and co-inhabit it with us. There would be little need for territorial wars and a planet co-inhabited in this fashion by two intelligent and friendly races could be an effective team in learning to colonise other planets which are currently totally unused. (UFOs have been reported in all Earth ecosystems, and tunneling in rock is reported by some UFO experiencers.) Being very familiar with airless environments, they would first invade our high altitude airspace (cf. Kenneth Arnold), then go directly to our polar ice caps and set up bases there, probably using large vacuum chambers (air may cause them discomfort or even be hazardous to them).

All air breathing animals and plants would seem very strange to them, so they would probably examine them carefully and do experiments on them. Humans would be interesting too, since we have the same general anatomy and are actually using the same vestigial parts that they do not use (thus they may have somewhat of an inferiority complex). They would have an interest in crossbreeding to facilitate both communication and diplomacy.

Just on the basis of these brief investigations I would like to suggest a new avenue of approach to the whole problem of life in the Solar System: (1) resist the tendency to look at other planets merely for their similarities to the Earth; (2) widen the scope of investigation to include the possibility that an alien race is vastly different though still humanoid; (3) accept the working hypothesis that alien humanoids may exist for whom mouth, nose and ears are merely vestigial organs not needed or used in their own planetary environment; (4) consider the idea that such humanoids may derive their energy from non-material sources and may have a civilisation and a technology based on concepts unknown to us and far advanced beyond the capacities of Earthly human technologies. Such technology and civilisation would be inestimably strange to us and would include adept camouflage, defence/offence, and countermeasures including counterintelligence.

It seems likely that any hypothetical advanced race within our Solar System would have noted our early developments in radio and television technology. If they had developed such technology themselves at an earlier date they may have discovered means of directed wireless transmissions that would not be detectable even by the most careful SETI type radio scanning. While SETI is worthwhile in some respects, it makes some very great basic assumptions - the greatest being that alien technology would not only be based on the same physical theories and phenomena as our own, but that their technology has not advanced beyond the point of the wasteful general broadcasting of radio waves into the surrounding universe. A culture aware of and fearful of the possibility of alien detection and attack might never permit such careless broadcasts. They would observe radio silence.

The Urantia Book states that our planet is in a temporary quarantine along with the other planets which became ensnared in the Lucifer rebellion. Our neighbouring planets may be undetectable to us because of this imposed blackout.

Jay Dillon 22/1/96.

Editor's comment: Thanks to Jay Dillon for that article, which I am sure will appeal to many of the readers of Strange Daze. Anyone wishing to contact Jay can write to him via me at the Editorial address, as per usual. This is the first time I have come across The Urantia Book and I am sure the same is true for many of our readers.

The subject of exobiology, the study of alien life forms, is greatly limited because to date we only have one living planet that we can study: Earth. This limits our understanding of evolutionary

processes and how life might develop on very different worlds. Having said that, it would be difficult to imagine how a humanoid life form could develop on a moon such as Europa or Ganymede; it would need to be seeded there with a deliberately engineered advantage over the better adapted indigenous life forms. Also, the much lower average temperatures on these icy moons would reduce the rate of biological reactions, and probably the rate of evolution also. This may mean that any life forms would be less able to recover from meteor impacts or other events resulting in mass extinctions.

Life has evolved many times on Earth, from the simplest of creatures to highly complex animals and plants. Each time, a major event has occurred which has wiped out most of the species and left the simplest creatures to once again evolve into countless highly adapted fauna and flora. The last major extinction was the Cretaceous-Tertiary event, probably caused by a meteorite impact, which wiped out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. But this was not the only one, or the biggest, of these world changing

extinctions; the Permian-Triassic boundary, 225 million years ago records the extinction of 96 percent of all marine species - which are less affected than species on land, generally.

Humanoid life, or intelligence, is not necessarily the end result of evolution. But a vaguely humanoid shape may be necessary for technology to develop. Alien visitors and colonists may well look like us. Our telescopes can see out to a distance of a billion light years or so. This volume of space encloses millions of galaxies like our own, and billions of solar systems. Now, we have started identifying other planets around nearby stars. Maybe alien life will be next, and maybe they will look like us. I'm willing to bet that they have a UFO problem of their own, as well.

Let us hope that we can use our intelligence as well to avoid the fate that befell all of those other creatures that used to dwell upon planet Earth.

- Ed.

REVIEWS - By the Editor unless otherwise indicated.

Peter Brookesmith: UFO - The Complete Sightings Catalogue.

£10.99 large format paperback, 176 pages; illustrations, appendices and index.

ISBN 0-7137-2583-4

This is one of those books that can safely be recommended to anyone interested in finding out more about the subject of UFOlogy, as it is one of the best overviews of the subject in recent years. Also, the collection of nearly 300 classic UFO encounters makes it a very useful reference tool for more seasoned researchers. In either case, this large and well illustrated book is likely to be used heavily, so if your budget can stretch to it, it might be worth shelling out a little extra for the £14.99 hardback. Brookesmith has arranged the cases in chronological order, with each chapter containing a handy period of time - a decade, for the second half of this century. The illustrations are mostly black and white photographs, with a few in colour and some artists impressions. The 9 appendices at the back of the book are one of the highlights, being valuable essays on aspects of the phenomenon such as mutilations, abductions and crop circles. The main criticism of this book is that there is no bibliography or end of chapter notes to point towards the original source material; despite that, this is a volume definitely worth buying.

Patrick Harpur: Daimonic Reality.

£8.99 Penguin Arkana paperback, 330 pages; black & white photographs, appendix, references, select bibliography and index.

ISBN 0-14-019485-1

Daimonic Reality received some very good reviews from the Forteans when it was first released, but the reactions of other groups have been far more critical. It is thoroughly researched and well laid out, and the wide ranging content means that it should be of great interest to everyone involved in the investigation of anomalous phenomena. Harpur covers aliens and UFOs, abductions, witches and fairy lights, ABCs, the BVM and even crop circles. But for those readers not well versed in Jungian psychology, classical mythology or the complete works of William Blake, it becomes heavy going in places. Some of his prose is almost impenetrable: For example, "But the proliferation of disciplines is only the expression of further spirit perspectives, further attempts to imagine unimaginable Imagination." Eh? Most commentators are agreed that Harpur is way off track with his section on crop circles, too.

Despite these criticisms, Harpur has much to say of value, particularly in regard to the alleged alien abductions. He looks at them in terms of psychology and shamanic experiences, which is most illuminating. Here is a book that deserves to be read by all UFOlogists. If Penguin were to produce an abridged version of maybe 200 pages with some glossy photos and a flying saucer on the cover, Harpur might get

his message across to more of those people who need to hear it. In the meantime, I will be lending my copy out with a list of chapters and pages worth reading.

NORTHERN UFO NEWS No 173, March 1996.

Jenny Randles' own magazine which, like Viz, appears every bi-month. Contains lots of news about Jenny Randles, her forthcoming TV work, reviews and Welsh case investigations by Margaret Fry. This issue contains some aerial contact cases over Scotland and it was good to see a piece by Mike Wootten defending BUFORA against the attacks made by Randles et al concerning commercialism at the '95 Congress. Full marks to Jenny for allowing the opposite point of view to be aired, but no surprises that it was not written by Philip Mantle (Boo, hiss), who most of the attacks were aimed against. No review of Strange Daze in this issue - Jenny was obviously far too busy investigating UFO cases and running the postal investigators' course to pull out all of the staples from the last issue. Silly I know, but I couldn't resist it. Come on, where has your famous sense of humour gone?

f7 for 6 issues from Jenny Randles, 11 Pike Court, Fleetwood, Lancs, FY7 8QF.

INTELLIGENCE No 6, March 1996.

The latest issue of the quarterly magazine from the British UFO Studies Group, BUFOSC. It contains articles on the Manchester air miss from January 1995, a faked "assessment" document, some newspaper articles and a piece by Terry Hooper on how UFOs can appear and disappear. Plus, an editorial and an article by Eric Morris on how great BUFOSC is - a running theme through these first issues of Intelligence. Well okay, blowing your own trumpet is one thing but you need to change the tune occasionally. Also, like Northern UFO News, it would be nice to see an issue at some point that utilises correct punctuation.

f2 per issue or f7 per year. Contact Bob Higgins, 27 Meadowgrove, Northwich, Cheshire, CW7 8BW.

NARO MINDED Issue 1, January 1996.

A new magazine from the Northern Anomalies Research Organisation (formerly MUFORA, Manchester UFO Research). It is very nicely printed and produced with an interesting variety of articles inside. It is a pity that, as with most first issues, it isn't very big; this one barely stretches to 15 A5 pages. Editor Stephen Mera knows what he's doing and future issues could be worth getting hold of, so watch out for it. Good luck with it, Stephen.

Quarterly, f4 per year. Contact Stephen Mera, 3 Paignton Drive, Ashton-on-Mersey, Sale, Cheshire, M33 5HJ. 0161 905 3047.

UFO TIMES No 39, Jan/Feb 1996.

This is a very good issue of the BUFORA magazine. It contains a long article by the late Dr Karla Turner on compulsive behaviour affecting abductees, and a research report by Rob Bull on the percentages of identified UFO reports. I found this most interesting as I, too, have my doubts about the commonly quoted "95% of UFO reports" that can be positively identified. This issue also contains pieces by Andy Roberts, Steve Gamble and Ken Phillips, along with the usual news, letters and the Investigations Diary by our own Gloria Dixon. Always worth reading, and steadily improving. No subscription details given; contact the Editor, Mike Wootten at BM BUFORA, London, WC1N 3XX.

MAGONIA 55 March 1996.

Kevin McClure is not a happy man. In a major article that should be read by all those involved in abduction research, he looks at the way abduction investigators have been dealing with children and the possible damage the abduction myth may be causing. When it comes to alleged child abductions, investigators must tread very carefully indeed. As McClure quite rightly writes, "Compared to the welfare of even one child, the standing and respectability of an obscure branch of anomaly research called ufology is of no importance." (Also on this theme, McClure has written to UFO Magazine concerning the piece "The Abduction of Jason Williams" in the March/April 1996 issue. Those interested in reading McClure's concerns can contact me. - Ed.)

Also in this issue, Mick Goss examines Beachy Head and other favourite suicide spots, plus the usual letters and reviews. Magonia does not exclusively deal with ufology, but in its pages you will find some of the sharpest minds in the subject on display. Indispensable. f5 for 4 issues. Send cheques payable to John Rimmer, John Dee Cottage, 5 James Terrace, Mortlake Churchyard, London, SW14 8HB.

Video Review: UFO ABDUCTIONS - The True Story.

Certificate E; Barcode no 5 031932 010015;
Release date: 15th April; Price: f14.99 double pack.

Thanks to Visual Corporation for sending an advance copy of this double videotape pack, which runs to 100 minutes in total. Tape one contains interviews with Bill Herrmann and other witnesses to a wave of UFO sightings near Charleston Air Force Base, USA in 1978. The investigation was performed by the well known Wendelle Stevens and a Japanese film crew. This material is not new - I remember watching it a couple of years ago - and it has presumably been repackaged to cash in on the current wave of UFO interest. The copyright date on the film is 1991, but from the clothing worn by the interviewees, it

must have been filmed originally close to 1978.

The second videotape contains the hypnotic regression of Bill Herrmann who, after seeing and photographing several times the UFOs over Charleston, was apparently abducted. Under hypnosis Bill reveals his meeting with the popular small grey beings. We find out that the UFOs move by manipulating gravity (with hydrodynamics and reverse osmosis!), that radar interferes with their propulsion (!) and that they come from Zeta Reticuli. Unfortunately they don't tell him the going rate for liver and onions. Near the end of the tape it is revealed that "14 months later he was telepathically guided to this quarry and taken on board a Zeta Reticulum spacecraft... voluntarily". And so he became a contactee.

For those people wanting to build a collection of UFO videos, this will probably be an essential purchase; full marks to Visual Corporation for re-releasing it.

The biggest gripe that I have with this video is that I found the central witness, Bill Herrmann, very annoying and somewhat smug. I cannot help but wonder why an alien race would choose to make contact with him. Do they have special sensors that pick up car radios playing hymns? Be careful folks, church-goers aren't safe from abductions. And if you must go out skywatching, hide your notebook and flask of weak lemon drink.

Conference Review:

QUEST INTERNATIONAL's UFO MAGAZINE - Newcastle Civic Centre, Saturday 6th April 1996.

The speakers: Graham Birdsall, Ananda Sirisena and Tony Dodd.

There are some days where every minute is well spent. The 6th April was not one of them. It has been a couple of years since I last went to a Quest conference in the Civic Centre and I can remember the last time their roadshow came into town. It was over the top, but fairly good fun. This time, it was still over the top, but I left feeling very unhappy with Quest International.

The first speaker of the day of Graham Birdsall, the editor of UFO Magazine. He gave an overview of the UFO history for the benefit of the novices in the audience; he went over Kenneth Arnold, Project Blue Book, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Britain's own Defence Secretariat 8, Air Staff 2a and Defence Intelligence 55, etc, with the emphasis on the Government Cover-Up. He very nicely said a very special hello to all of the military and intelligence personnel he thinks turn up to these conferences (ah, but did they pay for tickets like everyone else?). Graham also covered the Aurora and Stealth aircraft,

Area 51, underground tunnels and bases, the censorship of FOIA documents and Captain Zagheti's aerial near miss in April 1991.

After a one hour lunch break he introduced the well spoken Sri Lankan guest, Ananda Sirisena who spoke about the Face and Monuments on Mars. I didn't find any of it at all convincing. With so many craters, shattered rocks and eroded features on the surface of the desert planet, inevitably you will find some things that look like a face and a pyramid or two. Pick any Viking photograph and discover faces, pyramids and geometrical patterns to your heart's desire. As for the "city centre" complex, I think I will continue to go to the Metro Centre instead. The one on Mars looks decidedly closed.

These first two talks paled in comparison to the presentation given by Tony Dodd. It was a triumph of rumour and heresay over solid evidence, which I found astonishing coming from a former policeman. He gave no names, and only the most general outlines of dates and places. He talked of huge numbers of animal mutilations, carcasses with holes in their heads and the brain and spinal column removed; of a Scottish village where sheep were mutilated in such numbers that the villagers were terrified of a vampire, which made the front page of the local newspaper (the village not identified, or the newspaper, or the date - why not?); of large numbers of seals being found in the Orkneys with their heads surgically removed; and even a human mutilation from Brazil! Again, all of the details given were exceedingly vague, but at least he backed up this one with some very gruesome slides.

Tony talked about "greys" abducting humans, mostly women, for cold and cruel medical experiments; he spoke of "scoop marks" and inserts made through the navel; and implants up the noses and in the feet of the abductees. He claimed that surgeons in the U.S. had removed some of these implants, and that they were identical in all the abductees. So then: Who were these surgeons? Who were the abductees? Can we see these implants? No. Slides of them? No. Any evidence at all that they exist? No. Any solid evidence that abductions physically take place at all? Don't be silly.

We were also treated to rumours of missing Stealth ships (no evidence to back it up, such as lists of missing crewmen, naval press releases, etc), alien USOs mining radioactive minerals from the ocean floor, and tales of governments working in cahoots with the little grey chaps. Plus, Tony is still getting mileage out of the death threats from alleged CIA operatives, and the Kalahari UFO crash that virtually all UFOlogists are now agreed never happened. Undeterred, Tony now claims to have spoken to the South African woman

who autopsied the dead alien. Watch out Tony, she might try selling you the video footage of it next. (The other alien, supposedly still alive, was shipped to Wright Patterson AFB in the United States. Why on Earth would the South Africans do that? The whole story smells worse and has more holes in it than a Swiss cheese.)

Tony Dodd is a Believer. So were the other two speakers, but in Tony's case it is obvious that he has elevated the study of UFOs into a religion. No evidence required - only faith. To distil the afternoon into its three main messages, this is what we get:

1. The aliens are going to kill and mutilate your pets;
2. Then they will abduct you, and stick things up your nose; and
3. The government will make sure you can't do anything to stop it.

Twaddle. But it was just the sort of thing the other Believers in the audience wanted to hear. This is the kind of UFOlogy that allows the media and the critics to brand all UFOlogists as gullible fools and nutcases. For the young and the open minded in the audience it would be scary twaddle. So remember kids, just like the bogeyman, there is no evidence for any of this, either. Pleasant dreams.



Conference Review:

A DAY OF ABDUCTIONS

Sheffield Hallam University,
Pennine Theatre, Pond Street,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire

Saturday, 20th April 1996
10-00am to 6-00pm

Organised by British UFO Research Association
BM BUFORA, London WC1N 3XX

UFO CALL: Dial 0891 121 886
calls are 49p per min. peak and 39p per min. off peak

Seat number A.12

This was a day long event with six speakers organised by BUFORA. I was lucky enough to be seated on the front row, so I had an excellent view of the day's proceedings. The gentleman seated next to me had some choice comments about one or two of the presentations, and I think he was absolutely right. But I dread to think what he would have had to say about the Quest conference, had he been there. Compared to Quest's event, the message that came out of this day was that abductions are a varied, multi-faceted phenomenon and that the experiencers are rarely harmed by these events; indeed, they often result in a positive life change with improved artistic abilities.

Philip Mantle kicked the day off with a resume of Abductions in the UK, cases which featured in

his book *Without Consent*. Those who have seen Mantle talk before will be familiar with these cases. Mantle also introduced the speakers and directed questions from the audience. The second speaker of the day was meant to be Mrs Lynda Jones, who had her experience in August 1979. Unfortunately she did not turn up, so the next speaker was brought on stage.

That speaker was Mike Wootten, BUFORA's director of publications and editor of *UFO Times*. This was a very brave attempt to do something a little different by Mike, who sat on a tall stool and had a small handful of slides projected onto the screen behind him. The audience quickly realised that they could ask questions and raise points during his presentation (entitled "Fade to Grey") and that he would answer them, rather than the traditional route of leaving questions until the end. The mood of the audience was hostile, and it could have been a complete disaster; as it was, he got away with it - just - and it was pretty exiting stuff. I would regard Mike as a researcher, as opposed to an investigator, as I would myself. He has come to the conclusion that abductions are not occurring as objective physically real events by solid alien visitors, there is far more to it than that. He does know his subject (and as he pointed out, his own wife has had experiences, so he is very familiar with the subject matter) but with a little more preparation and structure to the talk he could have come across much better. Practice makes perfect.

The third BUFORA person to speak during the conference was the Chairman, John Spencer. His presentation, "UFO Abductions - A Step in Human Evolution" was the best of the day. A text book example of how to structure and present a talk, Spencer came across as the only "intellectual heavyweight" on the bill (as one person I spoke to put it). He went over the range of entities seen and their interpretations by different cultures, and pointed out the Newtonian/Darwinian Real/unreal paradigm we have in the West. He went on to look at the artistic, creative and lifestyle changes that often result from abduction experiences.

In a curious way, the regression therapist on the bill, Paulinne Delcour-Min, reinforced what Mike Wootten and John Spencer said by taking the opposite view to the extreme. Past lives, greys, nordics and reptoids, astral bodies and cosmic karma were all woven together into a semi-coherent new age fantasy. By the time she got onto "smoking black holes" and crickets from the planet Venus (we're lucky not to have had Buddy Holly, too) I was struggling not to laugh. To me it proved the point that these thoughts and experiences need to be analysed in a sociological and psychological context. Jung would be turning

in his grave, hearing it all being taken so literally.

Replacing Lynda Jones was Ros Reynolds, who spoke about her 1983 abduction and missing time experience while driving with her then boyfriend, Philip. She came across as nervous but sincere and it was good to hear her account of what happened at first hand.

The final speaker of the day was another experiencer, the American author Whitley Strieber. Whereas John Spencer came across as an academic, Strieber came across as a showman. The U.S. has the knack of producing confident, eloquent speakers who always give good value for money. He spoke of his experiences with "the visitors" and the implants that he believes he has in his hand and his ear. He will try to have them removed in the near future, and he referred to a report by a surgeon who had removed two implants for MUFON from two abductees in the U.S. Unlike Tony Dodd (who was presumably referring to the same implants in his talk), Strieber gave us some details of these devices. One of them was shaped like a seed and was removed from the hand; the other was shaped like a T and was removed from the foot. Apparently both were encased in a tough, organic material and the implants themselves were made of highly magnetised boron. At last, we have some solid evidence! Or do we? I hope the report on the implants becomes available, as I would like to find out who thinks that boron can be made highly magnetic. The only elements which are ferromagnetic are iron, nickel, cobalt, gadolinium and dysprosium. Obviously the implants need to be examined in detail, so we can get all of the facts straight. Strieber also showed some very interesting film footage, although I feel that the objects will ultimately prove to be quite normal.

LETTERS: Please send letters to "D.A. Newton" at the NUFORI postal address.

More on the origin of UFOs.

Sir/ I read with interest the article by Dr Tim Kendal in Strange Daze 8 and would like to congratulate him on the way he presented the facts and his own thoughts on the subject. I wrote to the magazine myself regarding my own theory of UFOs originating on Earth in prehistoric times, this was published in Strange Daze 5. Dr Kendal's article however got me thinking again of where ETI could come from.

As the nearest sunlike stars are tens of light years distance from the Earth and we assume that life exists in a Solar System similar to our own and is intelligent enough to travel these vast distances, I would like to speculate on why they would travel to Earth. They must see all of the other stars we see and, with improved instruments, probably a lot more. We theorise that there must be many more solar systems similar to ours where life exists,

This was an interesting conference with a good variety of speakers (although I would have liked to seen a speaker from the Hopkins/Mack/Jacobs school of abduction research as well) and lively audience participation, notably from Kevin McClure and an angry Scottish gentleman, who the greys would be well advised to steer clear of. Ultimately, you can learn more about the abduction phenomenon by reading up on the subject, but with such a large and varied amount of literature on the subject coming to a conference like this allows you to decide what to spend your money on. The real benefit of coming to a conference is being able to meet and talk with a huge number of people with similar interests and different opinions. The truth may not be out there, but at least you know you are not alone.



so have our nearest neighbours set off to study these worlds as well as Earth? If this is the case, can we assume they have jumped through hyperspace and joined forces with other worlds with similar intelligences to themselves and record the goings on of more backward peoples. This to me makes more sense than an ETI travelling at a speed less than the speed of light and being out of radio contact for tens of years with their own planet.

Our observation of the universe is continually improving with the latest developments in optical and radio telescopes, the latest of which has produced the first separate images of the double star Capella in the constellation Auriga. From Strange Daze 8 we also know that new planets are being discovered all the time using spectroscopic techniques. All these methods however require confirmation by sight.

Due to perturbations of our outer planets, astronomers are still searching for a tenth planet which has evaded all efforts to date. It is possible we

cannot see the wood for the trees, we cannot find it because it is not visible. If this tenth planet was hidden behind the Sun, and was the same mass, distance from the Sun and orbital speed as Earth, it would never come into line of sight from Earth. It would not even be in sight of the astronauts who orbited the Moon, so if we do not have instruments that tell us it is there we would have to travel in a spacecraft to see it.

It has been said many times that nothing is impossible and the existence of Earth 2 is not all that unlikely. If the formation of the two planets occurred at the same time, the evolution of the twins should keep pace with one another, natural disasters however might have set one back several hundreds of years from the other. Let us assume that Earth 2 does exist and they discovered Earth 1 some time ago, the reason for their mainly "Zoo hypothesis" could be that they do not like what they see: Wars, drugs, nuclear explosions, pollution, starvation, etc, is enough to put any more civilised race off friendship visits. They could be a little concerned that since our own space programme started we may discover them at any time and as we cannot get on with one another, they probably do not wish to take a chance on their continuing peace.

How exciting it would be if a learned professor confirmed these fantasies as a possibility and well worth while for an establishment like NASA to send a probe to see if anything is there. Mankind would certainly be taking a giant step forward if Earth 2 was found.

Yours, Mr W.A. Joughin.

Editor's comment: The idea of a second Earth hiding behind the Sun is a popular one in science fiction. In science fact, the possibility of this planet existing is zero. First of all, all of the planets tug on each other, which gradually alters their positions. Over a period of hundreds of thousands of years, a second Earth would eventually drift out of position behind the Sun and be visible to us on this planet. Secondly, the many spacecraft we have sent to the outer solar system (including the Mariner probes, the Voyagers, the Pioneers and Galileo) have had chance to look back at the inner Solar System and no Earth 2 has ever been detected. If a second Earth were hiding behind the Sun, its gravitational influence would be felt most strongly on the inner planets Mercury, Venus and Mars. No anomalies have been detected in their orbits that would suggest another planet.

If a second Earth did exist, life may possibly have evolved similar to that on our own planet. But given the many impact events and extinctions that have occurred on Earth, life on Earth 2 might be at a far different stage of evolution.

Some thoughts on reincarnation.

Sir/ As it has often been pointed out, there are more people alive today than have ever died! This raises immediate problems for reincarnation and the transmigration of souls. Are there people walking about today with no soul? Can the relatively small number of souls choose which body they want to come back into? Analysis of DNA suggests that all of humanity came from just one family, and there was a single "Eve" from which we are all descended. Are there only a handful of souls, from our primitive ancestors, spread amongst billions of people?

I would like to suggest that that there are no individual souls. Each individual has part of the collective soul and every thought, idea, action and deed is recorded in some way in a matrix of some sort, like a giant cosmological hard drive. Every new person develops a brain which is capable of picking up previous ideas, memories of actions and the consequences. Information can be processed and added to the matrix. Some people are more receptive to the thoughts of particular people who have lived before, perhaps due to similarities in their brain structure. This may result in the idea of reincarnation, where certain thoughts and memories of those who have gone before fit well, like pieces into a jigsaw, into the brains of people now alive. Maybe there really are several people who "were" Napoleon or Cleopatra, or at least parts of them, in a previous life. Perhaps also there is a general dilation of soul amongst the billions of people. Is this the reason why one meets so few people today with will-power and genuine strength of character?

Yours, M. Therion.

Scottish crap circle enigma.

Sir/ I think you will find that the cause of the dung circles is a simple one: Circular cattle feeders.

Yours, F. Perdurabo.

Editor's comment: Thank you to Mr Perdurabo and all the others who came up with the most reasonable explanation of this phenomenon. So, it was simply a load of cr*p after all.

Sir/ I have noticed that pictures of UFOs seen close up often appear somewhat old fashioned, rather like the hub caps of gas-guzzling fifties American cars. Is it coincidence that they started appearing in large numbers during the fifties? Perhaps the aliens come from a Fifties world, where there is a huge oil surplus and they cruise around in huge land yachts with chrome fins. Maybe they are still observing us, trying to figure out where we went wrong.

Yours, Mr E. Haw.

Editor's comment: Please abduct me.



NEXT ISSUE: AUGUST 1996

Deadline for receipt of articles: 15th July 1996.